Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A system for making computing applications throughout an enterprise aware of business events, comprising:

    a) an enterprise integration layer that integrates a plurality of front-office systems with a plurality of back-office systems, the enterprise integration layer [[to]] enables interactions between the front-office systems ~~to interact with~~ and the back-office systems, and the enterprise integration layer automatically publishes business events in accordance with the interactions between the front-office systems and back-office systems, wherein the back-office systems provide data and services and the front-office systems use the enterprise integration layer to access the data and services provided by the back office-systems through the interactions, the enterprise integration layer comprising:

    a1) an enterprise object model which defines objects that model the data and services provided by the back-office systems;

    a2) a set of client access interfaces coupled to the front-office applications wherein each of the client access interfaces correspond with a different technology and each of the client access interfaces provides a standardized interface through which the front-office systems access the objects of the enterprise object model;

    a3) a business object server coupled to the client access interfaces, wherein the business object server enables the interactions between the front-office systems and back-office systems by implementing data

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functions and service methods associated with the accessed objects; and

a4) a set of adapters coupled to the business object server wherein the adapters transform the accessed objects into a format of the back-office systems corresponding with the implementation of the data functions and the service methods associated with the accessed objects;

b) a messaging system coupled to the enterprise integration layer that automatically subscribes to the business events published by the enterprise integration layer and for each business event, the messaging system automatically generates a message [[to]]that makes [[the]] computing applications that are interested in the business event aware of the business event.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the enterprise integration layer further comprising a rules engine that defines and stores rules regarding transforming the objects of the enterprise object model to the format of the back-office systems, rules regarding mapping each of the back-office systems to an appropriate adaptor in the set of adaptors, and rules regarding when to publish the business events in accordance with the interactions.

3. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1 further comprising a business event repository within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that contains definitions of the business events that are of interest to a plurality of the computing applications.

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4. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1 further comprising a back-office metadata repository within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that holds metadata supplied by the set of adapters to enable transforming the objects of the enterprise object model to the format of the back-office systems.

5.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the set of client access interfaces comprise:

      an object interface;

      a relational interface; and

      a web services interface.

8.-10. (Canceled)

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11. (Currently Amended)   A system for making computing applications throughout an enterprise aware of business events, comprising:

   a) an enterprise integration layer that integrates a plurality of front-office systems with a plurality of back-office systems, the enterprise integration layer [[to]] enables interactions between the front-office systems and to interact with the back-office systems, and the enterprise integration layer automatically publishes business events in accordance with the interactions between the front-office systems and back-office systems, wherein the back-office systems provide data and services and the front-office systems use the enterprise integration layer to access the data and services provided by the back-office systems through the interactions, the enterprise integration layer comprising:

   a1) a rules engine that that defines and stores rules regarding criteria for when to publish the business events in accordance with the interactions and rules regarding transforming data from a common format to a format of the back-office systems;

   a2) a set of client access interfaces coupled to the front-office applications wherein each of the client access interfaces correspond with a different technology and each of the client access interfaces provides a standardized interface through which the front-office systems access a description in the common format of the data and the services provided by the back-office systems in the common format;

   a3) a business object server coupled to the client access interfaces,

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wherein the business object server enables the interactions between the front-office systems and back-office systems by implementing data functions and service methods associated with the common format description of the data and the services accessed through the set of client access interfaces; and

a4) a set of adapters coupled to the business object server wherein the adapters use the rules regarding transforming data stored in the rules engine to transform the data functions and the service methods described in the common format into a format of the back-office systems corresponding with the implementation of the data functions and the service methods; and

b) a messaging system coupled to the enterprise integration layer that automatically subscribes to the business events published by the enterprise integration layer and for each business event, the messaging system automatically generates a message [[to]]that makes [[the]] computing applications that are interested in the business event aware of the business event.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11 further comprising an enterprise object model within the enterprise integration layer which defines objects that model the data functions and the service methods provided by the back-office systems, wherein the common format is a format of the objects in the enterprise object model.

13. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 11 further comprising a business event repository within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that contains definitions of the business events that are of interest to a plurality of the computing applications.

14. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 11 further comprising a back-office metadata repository within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that holds metadata supplied by the set of adapters to enable transforming the data functions and the service methods described in the common format to the format of the back-office systems.

15. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 11 further comprising a transaction processor within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that provides distributed transactional quality of service.

16. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 11 further comprising a local data store within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that makes data persistent within the enterprise integration layer.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the set of client access interfaces comprise:

       an object interface;

       a relational interface; and

       a web services interface.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the enterprise integration layer uses previously existing infrastructure services within the enterprise.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the previously existing infrastructure services are selected from a group of services comprising:

       a naming and directory service;

       a security service; and

       an application management and monitoring system.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the previously existing infrastructure services include each of a group of services comprising:

       a naming and directory service;

       a security service; and

       an application management and monitoring system.

21. (Currently Amended)   A system for making computing applications throughout an enterprise aware of business events, comprising:

 a) an enterprise integration layer that integrates a plurality of front-office systems with a plurality of back-office systems, the enterprise integration layer [[to]] enables interactions between the front office systems to interact with and the back-office systems, and the enterprise integration layer automatically publishes business events in accordance with the interactions between the front-office systems and back-office systems, wherein the back-office systems provide data and services and the front-office systems use the enterprise integration layer to access the data and the services provided by the back-office systems through the interactions, the enterprise integration layer comprising:

 a1) a business event repository that contains definitions of the business events that are of interest to a plurality of the computing applications and also identifies all of the publishers for each of the business events;

 a2) a set of client access interfaces coupled to the front-office applications wherein each of the client access interfaces correspond with a different technology and each of the client access interfaces provides a standardized interface through which the front-office systems access a description of data and the services provided by the back-office systems in a common format;

 a3) a business object server coupled to the client access interfaces, wherein the business object server enables the interactions between the

front-office systems and back-office systems by implementing data functions and service methods associated with the common format description of the data and the services accessed through the set of client interfaces; and

a4) a set of adapters coupled to the business object server wherein the adapters transform the data functions and the service methods described in the common format into a format of the back-office systems corresponding with the implementation of the data functions and the service methods; and

b) a messaging system coupled to the enterprise integration layer that automatically subscribes to the business events published by the enterprise integration layer and for each business event, the messaging system automatically generates a message [[to]]that makes [[the]] computing applications that are interested in the business event aware of the business event.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 further comprising an enterprise object model within the enterprise integration layer which defines objects that model the data and the services provided by the back-office systems, wherein the common format is a format of the objects in the enterprise object model.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 further comprising a rules engine within the enterprise integration layer that defines and stores rules regarding transforming data from the common format to the format of the back-office systems.

24. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 21 further comprising a back-office metadata repository within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that holds metadata supplied by the set of adapters to enable transforming the data functions and the service methods described in the common format to the format of the back-office systems.

25. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 21 further comprising a transaction processor within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that provides distributed transactional quality of service.

26. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 21 further comprising a local data store within the enterprise integration layer [[to]]that makes data persistent within the enterprise integration layer.

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27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the set of client access interfaces comprise:

      an object interface;

      a relational interface; and

      a web services interface.

28. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the enterprise integration layer uses previously existing infrastructure services within the enterprise.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the previously existing infrastructure services are selected from a group of services comprising:

      a naming and directory service;

      a security service; and

      an application management and monitoring system.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29 wherein the previously existing infrastructure services include each of a group of services comprising:

      a naming and directory service;

      a security service; and

      an application management and monitoring system.

31. (Previously Presented) A method for a source computing application within an enterprise making a target computing application within the enterprise aware of a business event comprising:

> identifying business events within the enterprise, wherein business events are key milestones within a process flow;
>
> creating a common format for the business events;
>
> signaling that one of the business events has occurred with the source application;
>
> transforming data related to the one of the business events from a format of the source application to the common format;
>
> publishing the one of the business events and the data related to the one of the business events in the common format with the source application;
>
> subscribing to the one of the business events with the target application;
>
> transforming the data related to the one of the business events from the common format to a format of the target application;
>
> processing the one of the business events with the target application.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the one of the business events and the data related to the one of the business events are combined in a single packet and published.

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33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the one of the business events and the data related to the one of the business events are independently published.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the business event and the data related to the business event are published to a message queue or a message bus.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 further comprising:

identifying which of the business events to publish, wherein the one of the business events is identified to publish.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the business object server implements the data functions and the service methods associated with the accessed objects by performing one or more of object assembly, object disassembly, and service invocation functions, wherein object assembly includes creating a composite object by aggregating data from a plurality of back-office systems, object disassembly includes breaking a composite object into multiple objects for storage in at least one of the back-office systems, and service invocation includes determining which functions to invoke on one or more of the back-office systems.

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38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein a business event occurs upon the implementation of the data functions and the service methods including one or more of creating data, reading data, updating data, deleting data, and invoking one of the service methods.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3 wherein the business event repository further includes an identification of all of the publishers for each of the business events.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the messaging system comprises a transformation layer including one or more adaptors that map data corresponding to the business events published by the enterprise integration layer between a format of the enterprise object model and a format of the computing applications.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the one or more adaptors include a source application adaptor that transforms data related to a business event from a format of a source of the business event to the format of the enterprise object model and a target application adaptor that transforms data from the format of the enterprise object model to a format of a target subscribed to the business event.

42. (New)   A system for making computing applications throughout an enterprise aware of business events, comprising:

a) an enterprise integration layer that integrates a plurality of front-office systems with a plurality of back-office systems, the enterprise integration layer enables interactions between the front-office systems and the back-office systems, and the enterprise integration layer automatically publishes business events in accordance with the interactions between the front-office systems and back-office systems, wherein the back-office systems provide data and services and the front-office systems use the enterprise integration layer to access the data and services provided by the back office-systems through the interactions, the enterprise integration layer comprising:

a1) an enterprise object model which defines objects that model the data and services provided by the back-office systems;

a2) a set of client access interfaces coupled to the front-office applications wherein each of the client access interfaces correspond with a different technology and each of the client access interfaces provides a standardized interface through which the front-office systems access the objects of the enterprise object model;

a3) a business object server coupled to the client access interfaces, wherein the business object server enables the interactions between the front-office systems and back-office systems by implementing data functions and service methods associated with the accessed objects; and

a4) a set of adapters coupled to the business object server wherein the

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adapters transform the accessed objects into a format of the back-office systems corresponding with the implementation of the data functions and the service methods associated with the accessed objects;

a5) a rules engine that that defines and stores rules regarding criteria for when to publish the business events in accordance with the interactions and rules regarding transforming the accessed objects into the format of the back-office systems;

a6) a business event repository that contains definitions of the business events that are of interest to computing applications and also identifies all of the publishers for each of the business events;

b) a messaging system coupled to the enterprise integration layer that automatically subscribes to the business events published by the enterprise integration layer and for each business event, the messaging system automatically generates a message that makes the computing applications that are interested in the business event aware of the business event.

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